

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**AN AUTOMATIC METHOD OF IDENTIFYING
IMAGE SUBREGIONS FOR REUSE**

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A method, system, and computer program product are provided, wherein the bandwidth necessary to transmit an item of image data is reduced. When items of image data are identified in a datastream, they are extracted from the datastream. The image data item is then divided into a series of subregions of variable size. Where efficiency dictates that the operation is appropriate, the subregions are replaced in the image data item with a unique identifier to produce a reduced image. The reduced image is then packaged into a new data structure containing a header, the reduced image, and a decoding table that will allow the replacement of the identifiers with the extracted subregions. Where subregions are repeated, as they frequently are in images of large size, this arrangement will allow for the compression of the image by the elimination of redundant data that merely represents a repeated subregions. When the image reaches its destination, the it is decoded to reproduce the original image.

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